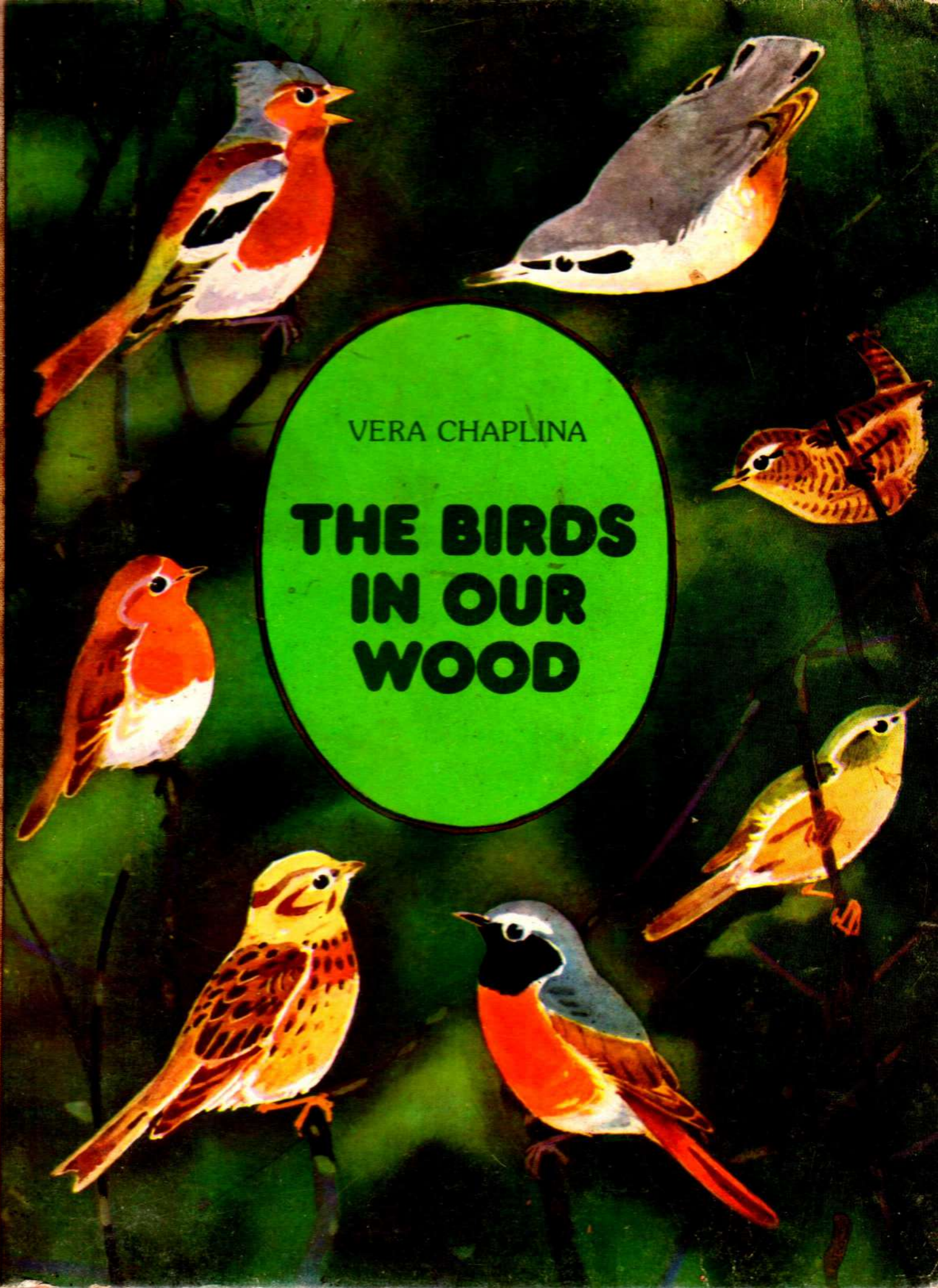


VERA CHAPLINA

THE BIRDS IN OUR WOOD

There are many birds in nature. They live in all kinds of places: in woods, in fields and near rivers. It is not easy to see some of the birds: they inhabit dense forests, impassable swamps and solitary mountains. But there are other birds, which we see every day in our wood not far from our house.
This books is about such birds.

THE CHAFFINCH

The chaffinch has pretty wings, as though they were painted. And what a wonderful nest chaffinches build! They line it with tiny feathers, fine hairs, and down. And it is so cleverly camouflaged from the outside with lichen that you can climb the tree without even noticing the nest.

THE REDSTART

The redstart is a lively bird. It is in a hurry to be everywhere at the same time: it will peck a fly here and a spider there. You can see only its tail whisking about like a little flame.

THE WOODPECKER

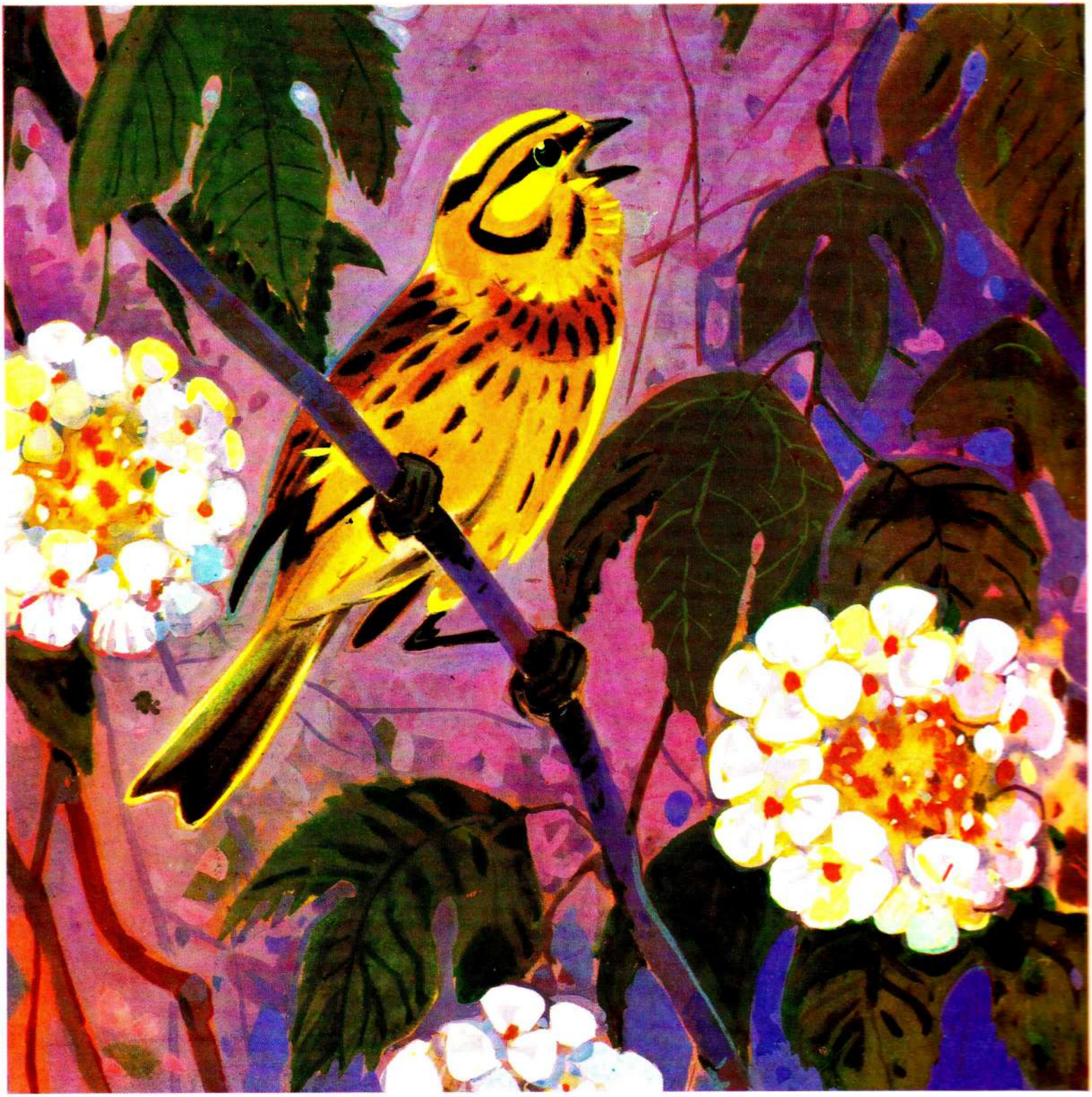
The black woodpecker's little claws are sharp and strong. It runs up and down a tree as though it were a ladder. It taps the tree with its long bill, looking for beetles and grubs.

THE NUTHATCH

The nuthatch runs up and down tree trunks the whole day, looking for insects. It goes up the tree and then runs down headfirst. Of all the birds the nuthatch alone can run down a tree in this way.

THE WREN

The wren is a small bird. Small, but brave. It keeps its short perky tail up all the time. It is a fidgety bird: now it rushes about among the bushes, now it looks into an old hole in a tree, now you see it among tall weeds!



THE YELLOW BUNTING

Yellow buntings build their nest on the edge of a wood among low bushes. A yellow bunting lays four or five eggs in its nest and both the parents hatch them. Now one parent sits on the nest, now the other, until the chicks have been hatched.

THE ROBIN

Merry robins arrive in early spring. There is still some snow in places, but robins are already there, picking all sorts of caterpillars, snails and spiders from the ground. They build their nests on the ground, too.

THE CHIFF-CHAFF

The moment chiff-chaffs arrive in spring they start singing songs. The chiff-chaff is a small bird and very quick, and has a thin bill. Birds with such a bill eat only insects.

THE TREE-PIPIT

Early in the morning, when the grass is still wet with dew, the tree-pipit starts its song. It flies very high, perches on the top of a tree and sings for all it is worth, and its song is ringing and cheerful.

Vera Chaplina

THE BIRDS IN OUR WOOD

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Translated from the Russian by *Vladimir Korotky*

Malysh Publishers Moscow

Printed in USSR

© Translation into English: Malysh Publishers
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